



October 22, 2024

Dear Governor Shapiro,

The proximity of fracking and related infrastructure to our homes, schools, water bodies, and public resources threatens people's health and these resources.

- Extensive research has established that living close to fracking exposes residents to unsafe levels of pollution and is associated with cancer, asthma, heart problems, preterm birth, birth defects, and other serious health problems. Three recent observational studies sponsored by the state of Pennsylvania found strong associations between fracking and health risks, including respiratory issues, increased risk of childhood cancer and low birth weight.
- The primary recommendation of the 43rd Statewide Investigating Grand Jury's report on fracking was to enact a 2,500 foot no-drill zone between fracking and homes, as well as a 5,000 foot no-drill zone for schools and hospitals. In reference to the recommended residential buffer, the Grand Jury stated that, "We do not believe such a modest buffer zone is too much to ask when it comes to people's health and homes." The Grand Jury described Pennsylvania's current, easily-waived 500 foot setback requirement between fracking and buildings as "woefully inadequate."
- The Department of Environmental Protection has the legal authority to enact setback distances that prevent fracking infrastructure from being built too close to our homes, schools, hospitals, streams, and wetlands.
- There is broad public support from Pennsylvania residents for increased setbacks distances. An October 2024 public opinion study conducted by Upswing Research for the Ohio River Valley Institute showed that 90% of responding Pennsylvania residents support stricter fracking regulations, including increased no-drill zones distances.

We, the undersigned organizations, strongly urge you to institute a statewide no-drill zone rule with the following distances:

- **3,281 feet from any buildings**
- **5,280 feet from any buildings serving vulnerable populations (e.g., schools, hospitals)**
- **3,281 feet from any drinking water wells**
- **750 feet from any surface water of the Commonwealth**

Thank you for your thoughtful consideration of this request.

Sincerely,

Beaver County Marcellus Awareness Community (BCMAC)
Beaver County NAACP
Breathe Project
Center for Biological Diversity
Center for Coalfield Justice
Clean Air Council
Concerned Residents of West Deer (CROWD)
Conservation Voters of PA
Earthworks
Environmental Health Project
Environmental Integrity Project (EIP)
Food & Water Watch
FracTracker Alliance
Ivy Lane Alliance
Justice Ministry, St. Paul's United Methodist Church, Allison Park, PA
Mountain Watershed Association
PennEnvironment
PennFuture
People Over Petro Coalition
Philadelphia Democratic Socialists of America (DSA)
Physicians for Social Responsibility (PSR) Pennsylvania
Protect PT
Responsible Decarbonization Alliance (RDA)
Sierra Club Pennsylvania
Sunrise Movement Pennsylvania
Sunrise Movement Pittsburgh
Three Rivers Waterkeeper
Yough Communities C.A.R.E.